

REMARKS

Claims 28-52 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 28-32 and 39 have been canceled. Reconsideration of this patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Amendment to Title

The title of the invention has been amended to be --Catheter Systems which Utilize Reduced Length Inner Conduit--. A version with markings showing changes made to the title is included herewith as "Attachment".

Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the October 1, 2002 Office Action, claims 28-32 and 39 were canceled. Thus, Applicant desires to limit examination to pending claims 33-38 and 40-52.

Election Requirement

It should be noted that Applicant's invention, as defined by pending claims 33-38 and 40-52, relates to the embodiment shown in Figs. 39-45, and described at page 79, line 17 through page 89, line 6 of Applicant's patent application. All of claims 33-38 and 40-52 are readable on this species. And Applicant elects this species for prosecution on the merits.

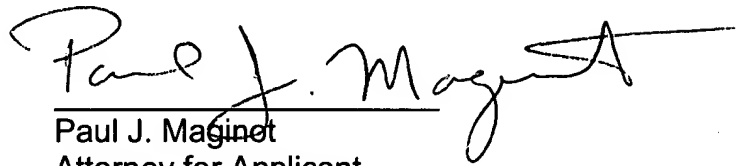
While pending claims 33-38 and 40-52 relate to the embodiment shown in Figs. 39-45, it should be appreciated that any of the other embodiments disclosed in the above-identified patent application can be modified to incorporate the features shown in Figs. 39-45 and thereby fall within the scope of

the pending claims. However, for purposes of examination, Applicant has elected the species shown in Figs. 39-45 for prosecution on the merits.

Conclusion

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Maginot", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Attachment

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to Title

In the Title

Please amend the title as indicated below:

Catheter Systems [and Associated Methods] which Utilize Reduced
Length Inner Conduit